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Founded 1899

WILLIAM F. RAPP, JR., Editor
HENRY F. BAUMGARTEN, Assistant Editor

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TWO NEW BIRDS ADDED TO THE NEBRASKA LIST

By Henry E. Baumgarten and William F. Rapp, Jr.

On September 1, 1952, David Cutler of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Donald D. Williams of Lincoln, Nebraska, telephoned Dr. Baumgarten to state that there was a Jaeger at Salt Lake just west of the city of Lincoln. Dr. Baumgarten notified Mr. Rapp and they went to the lake to join Cutler and Williams. All four observers agreed that the bird was a Jaeger, but, inasmuch as the bird was in immature plumage, no agreement could be reached as to its specific identity. After everyone had watched the bird for some time and studied its behavior, Rapp collected the specimen. With the bird in the hand the authors were able to identify the specimen as a Long-tailed Jaeger, *Sterncorarius longicaudus* Vieillot.

One distinguishing feature which separates the immature Long-tailed Jaeger from other species of Jaegers is the bluish color of the tarsi. In addition, the length of the supra-nasal saddle is not greater than the distance from its anterior end to the tip of the maxillary unguis (Ridgway 1919:687). Furthermore, there is white on only two or three outer primary shafts (Peterson 1947:108).

The specimen was sent to Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy for final identification. In a letter dated January 16, 1953, Dr. Murphy wrote concerning the specimen: "In my opinion, there is no doubt that your jaeger is *longicaudus*. Its plumage resembles that of many young examples of the parasitic, but the characters of bill, legs and feet, primary shafts, and tail all agree with those of the long-tailed species. I take it from your notes on the label that there was considerable contrast in life between the bluish color of the tarsus and the black of the toes. This is also a characteristic of the long-tailed jaeger."

Murphy (1936:1038) gives the distribution of the Long-tailed Jaeger as follows: "Breeds on arctic coasts of North America and Eurasia southward to northern Labrador. Winters southward to Gibraltar and Japan, and to the coasts of Peru, Chile and Argentina." There are numerous records from the interior of the United States and Bent (1921:27) gives the opinion that their main fall migration route is overland rather than coastwise.

The other new species added to the Nebraska list was the Grooved-bill Ani (*Crotophaga s. sulcirostris* Swainson). This Central and South American species was reported to us by Mrs. George Seabury of Plainview, Nebraska. Mrs. Seabury states that: "A Grooved-billed Ani was observed during the latter part of September and up to October 4, 1952, in the vicinity of Elgin, Nebraska. This lone stranger was first noticed, with other blackbirds, by Allen Frasier in a field he was sowing to wheat. A day or two later it made its appearance at the farm buildings where it was seen at close range by William Frasier, Jean Donner and Willeta Donner. The visitor was not shy allowing the observers to approach within a few feet of it where the grooves on the upper mandible could be seen with the naked eye. It stayed around this farm home for several days where it was studied with great interest. It was, on one occasion, minutely examined as

it perched near a window of the house and fed on woodbine berries. On October 4 the temperature dropped to 26° and the Ani was seen no more."

Bent (1940:34) gives the range for the Grooved-billed Ani as follows: "Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas and Baja California, south to northern South America." In addition, Bent states that there are casual records from Kansas and Minnesota.

Recently Rapp received communications concerning Anis in Kansas and Oklahoma from two ornithologists. The first, from Dr. F. M. Baumgartner, Associate Professor of Zoology, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Oklahoma, states: "One (Groove-billed Ani) was taken in south central Oklahoma and another in central Kansas in October . . . I am inclined to venture that a flock or two of these birds must have wandered out of their normal range in south Texas." Mr. Harrison B. Tordoff, Curator of Birds, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, reports that 10 or 12 Groove-billed Anis were seen in Oklahoma about October 10, 1952. Mr. Tordoff says: "It certainly looks as though there is a rather decided northward movement of the species this year."

The addition of these two birds brings the total number of species and subspecies of birds recorded in Nebraska to 476.

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Department of Chemistry
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska
- 2759 F Street
Lincoln 8, Nebraska

THE PILEATED WOODPECKER RETURNS TO NEBRASKA

By William F. Rapp, Jr.

The first record for a Pileated Woodpecker (*Ceophloeus pileatus abieticola*) in Nebraska since 1895 is reported by Augusta R. Galley (Mrs. E. J.) of Omaha, Nebraska. Mrs. Galley in a letter to Mr. L. O. Horsky states that she saw the bird on October 26, 1952, about 11 A.M. near Fort Calhoun, Washington County. She says: "A large bird flew into the tree and alighted on a branch about 15 feet up, its back toward me. I first noticed a red crest and a long body with a sharply pointed tail. It then flew to a lower branch, perhaps 10 feet up and perched sideways so I

could see a few white feathers on the side and a heavy yellowish bill which seemed to go right out from the crest.

"After a short stay, it suddenly took flight and in a straight, swift way, went down the valley and out of sight. It was an entirely new bird to me. After looking through my several bird books and talking with people who are better informed than I, I am sure I saw the Pileated Woodpecker."

The last known record for the Pileated Woodpecker in Nebraska is by I. S. Trostler from near Omaha, May 20, 1895. Bruner et. al. (1904:60) state: "This magnificent woodpecker was formerly not uncommon in the more heavily wooded portions of the Missouri bottoms. Both L. Skow and Bruner have seen it in the vicinity of Rockport, and Bruner also found it not rare about Tekamah years ago. The last Nebraska record is I. S. Trostler's, from near Omaha, May 20, 1895, a bird seen. It probably used to breed in these regions, for there have been noted in the past numerous indications of what was undoubtedly the work of this bird in building its nesting sites. If now present at all it is very rare."

In other sections of the country the Pileated Woodpecker is returning to areas which it formerly inhabited. In November 1941 the late Edward Green and the author reported the first Pileated Woodpecker seen in Essex County, New Jersey, for a number of years. Today the bird is breeding in the area where it was observed as a very rare bird in 1941.

The wooded area along the Missouri River provides excellent timber for the Pileated Woodpecker, so let us hope that the bird will once again become a breeding bird of this area.

Brunner, Lawrence, Robert H. Wolcott, and Myron H. Swenk, 1904

A Preliminary Review of the Birds of Nebraska.

Omaha 116 pp.

2759 F Street

Lincoln 8, Nebraska

BIRDS AT WAYEN (NEBRASKA)

By Doris B. Gates

During the summer of 1952 I had the opportunity to teach Nature Study in the Nebraska State Teachers College at Wayne, Wayne County, Nebraska. School lasted over the months of June and July, and I kept a list of birds seen on the campus or in the country or city nearby. The campus is on the edge of the city, so both areas are readily accessible.

The campus is well landscaped having a variety of both deciduous and evergreen trees with some grouped making ideal cover for birds. The north edge of the campus has a dense line of spruces arranged in three rows. The country around is open cultivated country with scattered clumps of brush—mainly plum—along fence rows. Farm yards have many trees.

By far the most numerous birds on the campus were Mourning Doves and Bronzed Grackles. They seemed to use the spruce thicket for a nursery. An Orchard Oriole sang from the topmost branches of the trees behind Morey Hall, and later young birds were seen in the vicinity.

Dickcissels and Western Meadowlarks sang from fences north of the campus, and Purple Martins lined up on the front of their house. The Blue Grosbeaks were seen on fences near many of the clumps of plums.

There were four eggs in a Western Kingbird's nest about 14 feet from the ground toward the center of a Chinese elm tree. A pair of Cardinals nested in a grapevine just below the eaves of the back porch of the president's home.

A student brought in a Yellow-billed Cuckoo which "fell dead" at his feet, and he heard Blue Jays and thought they had killed it.

A complete list of birds with notations as to nests (n) or young (juv.) is given below: Great Blue Heron, Eastern Green Heron, Ring-necked Pheasant, Western Mourning Dove (n) June 25, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Nighthawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird (n) June 19, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Eastern Crow, Chickadee, Western House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin (juv.) June 6, Warbling Vireo, Yellow-throat, English Sparrow, Meadowlark (Western), Red-wing, Orchard Oriole (juv.) June 26, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle (juv.) June 4, Cowbird, Eastern Cardinal (juv.) June 16, (n) June 25, Western Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow.

401 South Ash Street
North Platte, Nebraska

FALL FIELD DAY 1952

The second annual fall field day of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union was held on the first weekend of October (4 and 5).

In 1951, eleven groups reported a total of 102 species and subspecies; while, in 1952 five groups reported a total of 102 species and subspecies.

The following groups participated:

Antelope County: Miss Ann Seabury, Mr. and Mrs. George Seabury, Mrs. Luella Seabury, Lloyd Seabury.
Lincoln: Audubon Naturalists' Club.
Ogallala: Mrs. R. A. Goodall.
Omaha: L. O. Horsky, reporter.
Scottsbluff: Nature Lovers Club.

GREBES

EARED GREBE, Lincoln. PIED-BILLED GREBE, Antelope County (12); Lincoln; Omaha (8).

CORMORANTS

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, Ogallala (200).

HERONS AND BITTERNS

GREAT BLUE HERON, Ogallala (4); Omaha (8). AMERICAN EGRET, Omaha (1). AMERICAN BITTERN, Ogallala (53); Omaha (1).

GEESE AND DUCKS

BLUE GOOSE, Lincoln. MALLARD, Antelope Co. (3); Lincoln; Ogallala (14). PINTAIL, Lincoln; Ogallala (19). GREEN-WINGED TEAL,

Lincoln; Omaha (4). BLUE-WINGED TEAL, Antelope Co. (7); Lincoln; Omaha (20). GADWALL, Lincoln; Ogallala (8); Omaha (4). BALDPATE, Lincoln. SHOVELLER, Lincoln; Omaha (10). RED-HEAD, Lincoln. LESSER SCAUP, Omaha (4).

HAWKS AND FALCONS

RED-TAILED HAWK, Antelope Co. (7); Lincoln; Ogallala (1); Omaha (1); Scottsbluff (1). SWAINSON'S HAWK, Lincoln. AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, Lincoln. MARSH HAWK, Antelope Co. (4); Lincoln; Ogallala (9); Omaha (1). DUCK HAWK, Lincoln. PIGEON HAWK, Scottsbluff (1). SPARROW HAWK, Antelope Co. (2); Lincoln; Omaha (1).

PHEASANTS

RING-NECKED PHEASANT, Antelope Co. (3); Lincoln; Scottsbluff (6).

CRANES AND RAILS

SANDHILL CRANE, Ogallala (200). VIRGINIA RAIL, Omaha (1). SORA, Antelope Co. (1). COOT, Lincoln; Ogallala (31); Omaha (300).

PLOVERS AND SANDPIPERS

KILLDEER, Antelope Co. (75); Lincoln; Ogallala (8); Omaha (100); Scottsbluff (1). BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, Lincoln. WILSON'S SNIPER, Antelope Co. (3). SOLITARY SANDPIPER, Ogallala (3). GREATER YELLOW-LEGS, Lincoln; Omaha (20). LESSER YELLOW-LEGS, Antelope Co. (4); Lincoln; Omaha (30). PECTORAL SANDPIPER, Lincoln; Omaha (50). BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, Lincoln; Omaha (10). DOWITCHER, Antelope Co. (3).

GULLS AND TERNS

HERRING GULL, Omaha (50). RING-BILLED GULL, Lincoln; Ogallala (40). FRANKLIN'S GULL, Lincoln; Omaha (100). FORSTER'S TERN, Omaha (1).

DOVES

WESTERN MOURNING DOVE, Antelope Co. (5); Lincoln; Ogallala (7); Omaha (1); Scottsbluff (1).

OWLS

SCREECH OWL, Ogallala (2). GREAT HORNED OWL, Antelope Co. (2). BURROWING OWL, Ogallala (1). BARRED OWL, Omaha (1).

SWIFTS

CHIMNEY SWIFT, Lincoln; Omaha (23).

KINGFISHERS

BELTED KINGFISHER, Antelope Co. (1); Ogallala (15); Scottsbluff (1).

WOODPECKERS

YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER, Antelope Co. (12); Lincoln; Ogallala (7); Omaha (3). RED-SHAFTED FLICKER, Lincoln; Ogallala (17); Scottsbluff (4). RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, Lincoln; Omaha (1). HAIRY WOODPECKER, Lincoln; Ogallala (1); Omaha (2); Scottsbluff (1). DOWNY WOODPECKER, Antelope Co. (3); Lincoln; Ogallala (1); Omaha (6).

LARKS

HORNED LARKS, Antelope Co. (4); Ogallala (35); Omaha (6).

SWALLOWS

BANK SWALLOW, Omaha (11). BARN SWALLOW, Omaha (40).
PURPLE MARTIN, Omaha (12).

CROWS AND JAYS

BLUE JAY, Lincoln; Omaha (5). AMERICAN MAGPIE, Antelope Co. (2); Ogallala (41); Scottsbluff (12). CROW, Antelope Co. (360); Lincoln; Ogallala (8); Omaha (13), Scottsbluff (1).

TITMICE

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, Antelope Co. (27); Lincoln; Omaha (18); Scottsbluff (4). TUFTED TITMOUSE, Omaha (2).

NUTHATCHES

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, Lincoln; Omaha (2). RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, Lincoln.

CREEPERS

BROWN CREEPER, Antelope Co. (1); Lincoln.

WRENS

HOUSE WREN, Omaha (3).

THRASHERS

BROWN THRASHER, Antelope Co. (1); Scottsbluff (1).

THRUSHES

ROBIN, Antelope Co. (360); Lincoln; Ogallala (17); Omaha (6); Scottsbluff (25). EASTERN BLUEBIRD, Omaha (2); Scottsbluff (6).

KINGLETS

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET, Antelope Co. (4). RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, Lincoln.

SHIRKES

NORTHERN SHRIKE, Ogallala (2).

STARLINGS

STARLING, Antelope Co. (325); Lincoln; Omaha (21); Scottsbluff (2).

WARBLERS

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, Antelope Co. (1). NASHVILLE WARBLER, Lincoln. MYRTLE WARBLER, Antelope Co. (9); Lincoln; Omaha (6). MOURNING WARBLER, Lincoln.

WEAVER FINCHES

ENGLISH SPARROW, Antelope Co. (100); Lincoln; Omaha (75).

BLACKBIRDS

MEADOWLARK, Antelope Co. (55); Lincoln; Ogallala (43); Omaha (16); Scottsbluff (6). YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD, Ogallala (14); Scottsbluff (2). RED-WING, Antelope Co. (1500); Lincoln; Ogallala (1000); Omaha (75); Scottsbluff (20). BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, Antelope Co. (10); Ogallala (2). BRONZED GRACKLE, Lincoln; Omaha (26); Scottsbluff (25).

SPARROWS AND BUNTINGS

CARDINAL, Lincoln; Omaha (6). PURPLE FINCH, Lincoln. COMMON HOUSE FINCH, Scottsbluff (1). PINE SISKIN, Antelope Co. (1); Scottsbluff (1). GOLDFINCH, Antelope Co. (77); Lincoln; Omaha (52). RED-EYED TOWHEE, Antelope Co. (6); Lincoln. ARCTIC

TOWHEE, Ogallala (1). LARK BUNTING, Ogallala (26). SAVANNAH SPARROW, Lincoln. BAIRD'S SPARROW, Antelope Co. (2). VESPER SPARROW, Antelope Co. (32). LARK SPARROW, Ogallala (14). SLATE-COLORED JUNCO, Antelope Co. (94); Lincoln; Scottsbluff (1). TREE SPARROW, Antelope Co. (200). CHIPPING SPARROW, Lincoln. FIELD SPARROW, Antelope Co. (5). HARRIS SPARROW, Antelope Co. (58). WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, Antelope Co. (9); Lincoln; Scottsbluff (12). WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, Omaha (1). LINCOLN'S SPARROW, Antelope Co. (1); Omaha (3). SONG SPARROW, Antelope Co. (34); Lincoln.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DR. JOHN T. ZIMMER RECEIVES BREWSTER MEDAL

At the seventieth stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, Dr. John T. Zimmer was awarded the Brewster Medal. This medal is awarded annually to the author of the most important work relating to birds of the Western Hemisphere published during the preceding six years. Dr. Zimmer, a member of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union since 1907, received the award in recognition of his publications on the birds of Peru.

THE FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

This year the Annual Meeting will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, May 9 and 10. Mr. L. O. Horsky is Chairman of the Committee on local arrangements. Additional information regarding this meeting will appear in the April issue.

1953 FIELD DAYS

All Field Day reports must be sent to the editors on *Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Daily Check List* cards. These cards may be purchased from Miss Mary Lou Hanson, Custodian. All reports not received on check-list cards will be returned. Number of individual species should be listed. Reports should reach the editors within seven days.

Spring Field Day—May 2 and 3.

Annual Field Day—Omaha, May 10.

Crete Field Day—September 20.

Fall Field Day—October 3 and 4.

The National Audubon Society sponsors the following bird counts: Christmas Bird Count, Winter Bird Count and Breeding Bird Count. The results of these counts are published in *Audubon Field Notes*. Instructions for the making of these counts were published in *Audubon Field Notes*, volume 4, no. 2 (April 1950) or a reprint may be obtained for 15 cents from the National Audubon Society, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, New York.

World Wide bird counts are being conducted by the Bird Research Station, Glanton, Northumberland, England. Those interested in cooperating should contact Mr. Noble Rollin at the above address.

GENERAL NOTES

REPORTED SIGHT RECORD OF GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.

—On April 5, 1952, we saw a large gull which we identified as the Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). In the party at the time, in addition to the author, were Mrs. L. G. Margritz and Deanna Margritz of Phillips, Ilene Holtzen and Phyllis Nelson of Aurora, and Janet Swanson. We were traveling on U. S. highway 34 and were approximately seven or eight miles west of Aurora. When we first saw the bird it was about half a mile to the south of us. Even at that distance the contrast of the black back and the white underparts was outstanding. We pulled to the side of the highway and watched the bird as it came slowly, skimming and turning, at a right angle to the highway. It was not flying high and it crossed the road just a short distance in front of us. The large size, the all white head and the sharp black back against the white underparts made it unmistakable. At this point highway 34 is only about six miles from the Platte River, and we felt quite sure that the river was the destination of the gull as we watched it fly out of sight in that direction.—Mrs. Kermit S. Swanson, Aurora, Nebraska.

FIELD SPARROW WINTERS AT AURORA.—Last fall (1951) a flock of Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*) spent a day in the dense growth of saplings on the vacant lot next to our house. When the flock left, one Field Sparrow stayed behind and spent the winter with us. At first it fed only in the vacant lot, but with the coming of cold weather it lost some of its shyness and came to feed at our more protected feeder shelves under the windows. It remained a bit shy, however, and was easily driven off by observers or even by other birds, usually leaving when another bird appeared. It fed mostly on small seed and occasionally on bits of peanut.—Mrs. Kermit S. Swanson, Aurora, Nebraska.

FOX SPARROW IN LOGAN COUNTY.—On April 3, 1952, while driving along a country road four miles south of Stapleton, I observed a large, sparrow-like bird on the ground at the roadside. When I stopped the car, the bird flew into a tree and remained quiet for some time. With the aid of binoculars I was able to identify the bird as a Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*), there being much rufous on the tail and breast and gray about the face. This is the first recorded observation of the Fox Sparrow in the Stapleton area. Many years ago Mrs. Glandon observed a bird which she believed to be a Fox Sparrow on our front porch during a late spring snow storm.—Earl W. Glandon, Stapleton, Nebraska.

AMERICAN EGRETS IN FILMORE COUNTY.—*The Nebraska Signal* (published at Geneva) in its July 24, 1952, issue reported the summer visitation of the Shickley area by a number of American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*). The birds were first observed about two weeks before the above date by farmers and fishermen in the St. Mary Catholic Church area. Mervin Bedford, who observed eight or nine of the egrets near his farm northwest of Shickley, was the first to identify the egrets as such. The birds seemed to prefer the Weis pond two miles south of the St. Mary's Catholic Church but were seen on other ponds in the area.—W. F. Rapp, Jr. and Henry E. Baumgarten, Lincoln, Nebraska.

AMERICAN EGRETS IN DAKOTA COUNTY.—During the latter part of August, 1952, reports came to the author from the still flooded areas of Dakota County that "White Cranes" were quite common, so on August 27, W. R. Felton, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Felton, Jr., and the author made a trip to the Crystal Lake area to establish the identity of the "cranes". Our first stop was the old lake bed of Silver Lake, which had been filled by the April flood. There we saw seven American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*). In roaming about the general area, we covered about twenty miles by car and found flocks of these egrets in varying numbers from a few to as many as 22. We agreed that in all we had seen at least 100 American Egrets during the tour. On September 1, another trip was made over the same area but only about 15 egrets were seen. After finding one egret that had been killed and left to rot, we decided that hunters with rifles had bothered the birds to such an extent that they had largely moved out of the area.

On September 27 the author made a third trip to the Crystal Lake area and found a flock of 27 American Egrets in a secluded little mud hole behind some timber. During the morning field trip in that area 57 American Egrets and about 300 Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) and one Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*, Subsp.) were seen as well as a flock of 30 Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*).

A fourth field trip to the Crystal Lake area on October 9 yielded only one American Egret. Apparently an earlier two days of 24°F. weather had encouraged the egrets to move south. The hardy Great Blue Herons were still around to the extent of 34 individuals. On October 21, a fifth and final field trip yielded only a single Great Blue Heron. The latter heron is a hardy bird, occasionally remaining well into November. Last January (1952) the author found one cold Great Blue Heron at Sioux City, Iowa, near the mouth of an open sewer running into the Missouri River.—William G. Youngworth, Sioux City, Iowa.

SPRING 1952 NOTES FROM BRULE.—Two unusual records were made on our January 1, 1952, field trip, both at Lake Ogalalla. Mr. Huntley, my companion on this trip, first observed a bird which we could not immediately identify. It was only after the bird had drifted near the lake shore that we were able to see that it was a loon. Apparently the loon decided that we were harmless, for it started to preen itself, allowing us to see the color of its eye, feet, and bill. We concluded that the bird was a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*, Subsp.) on the basis of our observations. For the second record Mr. Huntley saw a male Redhead (*Aythya americana*) feeding with some Buffle-head (*Glaucionetta albeola*) and American Golden-eye (*Glaucionetta clangula americana*).

On May 7, 1952, I discovered an American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) in a small pond near the south channel of the South Platte River. I was able to distinguish this unusual bird from the somewhat similar but smaller Snowy Egret by the absence of crest plumes, the long slender neck, and the color of bill and feet.—Harold R. Benckeser, Brule, Nebraska.

GREEN HERON AT STAPLETON.—A Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*, Subsp.) was observed in a wooded, swampy area along the South Loup River, two and one half miles west of Stapleton, on May 4, 1952. This is the first reported observation of this species in the Stapleton area and the second for the South Loup River along its upper course. The first observation was made in Custer County, August 19, 1951, as reported in the *Nebraska Bird Review*, xx, 46 (1952).—Earl W. Glandon, Stapleton, Nebraska.

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE AT BLADEN.—On May 5, 1952, I discovered an unfamiliar bird perched on the telephone lead-in wire to my house. The bird did not sing but did allow me to watch it through binoculars as it sat on the wire and later when it flew over to a tree at the edge of the orchard. The bird had a blackish throat patch, somewhat like the immature male Orchard Oriole although it was a larger bird. It lacked the bright contrasting coloration of the Baltimore Oriole, the black being almost wholly absent. The bird had a dark streak lengthwise through the tail feathers, particularly visible when it flew. On the basis of these observations and comparison with the plate found in Taverner's "Birds of Canada", I identified the bird as a Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullocki*). The Bullock's Oriole has been seen previously at Hastings, about 30 miles away.—Harold Turner, Bladen, Nebraska.

FALL NOTES FROM PLATTSMOUTH.—The following list of fall 1952 migrants was compiled in and around Plattsouth: Cliff Swallow (Sept. 11), Barn Swallow (Sept. 11), Rough-winged Swallow (Sept. 11), Chimney Swift (Oct. 2, last record for 1952), Cedar Waxing (Sept. 19), Nashville Warbler (Sept. 27, last record Oct. 16), Ring-billed Gull (Sept. 28, several hundred seen), Myrtle Warbler (Oct. 2), Carolina Wren (Oct. 14, last record Dec. 27), Chipping Sparrow (Oct. 16), Bluebird (Oct. 29, flock of 40 or 50), White-crowned Sparrow (Oct. 29, last record Dec. 27), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Nov. 3).—Mrs. Paul T. (Lorene) Heineman, Plattsouth, Nebraska.

FALL NOTES FROM HASTINGS.—The following list of fall 1952 migrants was compiled in the Hastings area: Wilson's Warbler (Sept. 21), Brown Creeper (Oct. 1), Orange Crowned Warbler (Oct. 10), Least Flycatcher (Oct. 14), Oregon Junco (Oct. 16), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Oct. 26), Cedar Waxwing (Oct. 30), Whistling Swan (Nov. 1, a female accidentally shot by a hunter out of a flock of geese and turned over to the Hastings museum for their collection), Double-crested Cormorant (Nov. 3, found on the Heartwell Lake with one injured wing), Golden-crowned Kinglet (Nov. 22).—Mrs. A. H. Jones, Hastings, Nebraska.

COMMUNICATIONS

(Here are recorded those observations reported to the editors which are too brief or otherwise unsuited for inclusion in the General Notes but which represent useful additions to our knowledge of Nebraska birds.)

A pair of Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus lucovicianus*, Subsp.) spent three weeks (up to August 21, 1952) around the house of Karl Schwarz, well known Omaha taxidermist. Mr. Schwarz lives near the Fontenell Forest and states that in 20 years of bird observation in the forest he has never seen this wren before . . . C. E. Pearson (of Genoa) observed an albino Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) in a group of 35 Robins gathering in his back yard. The bird was not pure white but rather a cream color . . . About 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 17, 1952, while driving south from U. S. highway 30 to Oxford, Nebraska, Mrs. O. U. (Ellen R.) Ritchey (of Stamford) identified a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) perched on a road-side telephone wire. This interesting record should encourage other N. O. U. members living near the southern border of Nebraska to keep on the look-out for this rare visitor and rarer breeder . . . On April 8, 1952, a flock of between 200 and 300 White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) was discovered on a lagoon 3 miles south of Clay Center, Nebraska, by W. E. Eigsti and Cal Kline (of Hastings). The pelicans were observed later by other members of the Brooking Bird Club on April 19 and 20; on the latter date only 75 pelicans remained on the lagoon . . . A group of 250 Hudsonian Godwits (*Limosa haemastica*) was counted by Phil Agee (of Lincoln) at Capital Beach on April 28, 1952. The birds remained long enough for other Lincoln observers (including C. G. Pritchard and H. E. Baumgarten of the N. O. U.) to try their hands at counting the huge group . . . A large flock of Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*) appeared at the Cherry County station of Mrs. Donald Held on January 22, 1952, just ahead of the disastrous blizzard of that date. The birds disappeared when the storm winds lessened. . . On July 17, 1952, Gerald L. Arnholtz (of Thedford) observed a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilocus colubris*) darting among the blossoms of a milkweed plant in the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey. Mr. Arnholtz says that the hummingbird, although common in other parts of the state, is only rarely seen in that area . . . Another rare visitor, the Goshawk, (*Astur atricapillus*) was also seen by Mr. Arnholtz, this time in the Thedford area. This particular hawk was wounded but resisted all attempts at capture in the flesh, so Mr. Arnholtz captured him on film . . . Harold Turner reports seeing both water thrushes for the first time in the Bladen area during the spring of 1952. The Louisiana Water Thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) was seen May 11 along a local creek and the Grinnell's Water Thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*, Subsp.) was seen on May 18 in the same vicinity . . . Mr. Turner also reports seeing a flock of 25 to 30 longspurs, identified tentatively as Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) on April 14, 1952, in the Bladen area . . . The first White-throated Sparrow (*zonotrichia albicollis*) in her thirty-five years of bird watching at Cozad was seen by Miss Hallie J. Allen on November 19, 1952 . . . Leroy Gates (of Peru) found a nest with young of a Horned Lark near

Sanatee in the "Devil's Nest" area on June 20, 1952. Mr. Gates reports that the nest was placed at the base of a coarse weed and was practically unprotected since there was hardly any grass or other small plant life . . . Mrs. Paul T. Heineman reports an albino Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) seen on September 1, 1952, at Plattsmouth. The bird was all white except for a faint flush on the throat, a few breast streaks, and a slate gray wash on the shoulders.

BOOK REVIEWS

FLEAS, FLUKES, AND CUCKOOS.—Meriam Rothschild and Theresa Clay. Philosophical Library, Inc., 15 East 40th Street, New York 16, New York. 1952: xiv 304 pp., 99 black and white photographs, 4 maps and 22 drawings. \$8.75.

The subtitle: "A Study of Bird Parasites" is a very good summary of this excellent book. The authors are two English zoologists who have specialized for many years in the study of bird parasites. For the amateur ornithologist who up until now has only considered birds as an object for field study this book will open an entirely new avenue of study.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part is general, discussing such subjects as parasitism, symbiosis, and the effect of parasites and parasitism on both the host and parasite. The last chapter of part one describes the origin and evolution of parasites. Part two deals with external parasites, i. e. fleas and lice; while, part three is a potpourri in which internal parasites, the fauna of birds' nests and the European Cuckoo are discussed.

To the bird student whose interest extends beyond simple field identification this book will serve as useful fuel for thought on the wide and vast subject of ornithology.—W.F.R.

EAGLE MAN.—Myrtle Jeanne Broley. Pellegrini and Cudahy, 41 East 50th Street, New York 22, N. Y., 1952: xiv 210 pp., 8 pls. \$3.50.

This is the story of Charles L. Broley's field adventures with American Eagles. It shows how one man in a comparatively short period of time has greatly extended our knowledge about eagles. In his life time Broley has banded over 1200 Bald Eagles, well over a dozen times the number banded by all other ornithologists put together.

Eagle Man is both a human story of a remarkable man and a source book on the American Eagle.—W.F.R.